What is claimed is:

1. A method for manufacturing a type plate to be fastened on an article, the method comprising the steps of:

preparing a plate member of a temperature-resistant thermoplastic material, wherein the plate member at least partially forms a housing with a shell-shaped receptacle;

inserting a transponder having an empty memory into the receptacle;

closing off the receptacle by a lid that is produced of a temperature-resistant thermoplastic material;

subsequently, melting in the contact zone between the housing and the lid at least one of the thermoplastic materials of the housing of the plate member and the lid to form a welding seam between the housing and the lid and to form a combination product comprised of the plate member, the transponder, and the lid;

applying data in an optically readable form on a visible side of the combination product; and

inputting at least some of the data additionally electromagnetically into the memory of the transponder, wherein the data that are input into the memory are readable electronically.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of applying the data in a optically readable form and the step of inputting at least some of the data into the memory are carried out simultaneously.

3. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of adding service data of the article into the memory of the transponder.

4. The method according to claim 1, wherein, in the step of applying the data in an optically readable, a laser light is employed for engraving the visible side of the combination product.

5. The method according to claim 1, wherein the lid is produced of a thermoplastic material that is substantially transparent for laser radiation of a selected frequency, wherein the laser radiation is absorbed by the thermoplastic material of the housing, wherein, in the step of melting, the laser radiation is applied to a contact zone where the thermoplastic materials of the lid and the housing contact one another.

6. The method according to claim 5, wherein, in the step of producing the plate member, the thermoplastic material is a material that is opaque for the laser radiation, and wherein, in the step of applying the data in an optically readable form, the data is applied to a side of the plate member facing away from the housing.

7. The method according to claim 1, wherein friction welding is used in the step of melting.

8. The method according to claim 1, wherein ultrasound welding is used in the step of melting.

9. The method according to claim 1, wherein, in the step of preparing the plate member, the plate member is provided with a backside having a relief profile and a recess arranged in the relief profile, wherein the receptacle is formed by the recess, wherein the lid is substantially plane, and wherein, in the step of closing off the housing, the lid is inserted into the relief profile such that the relief profile projects past a backside of the lid.

10. The method according to claim 9, wherein the recess has such a depth that the depth is substantially identical to a thickness of the transponder.

11. The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of applying the data in an optically readable form and the step of inputting at least some of the data additionally are carried out after the combination product is connected to a vehicle.